

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 250826Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4356

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

USUN NEW YORK 462

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 6267

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, IV

SUBJECT: FONMIN USHER'S VIEWS ON UN

REF: STATE 170841

1. SUMMARY: FONMIN USHER REITERATED HIS OFTEN EXPRESSED VIEW THAT LDC SOLIDARITY IN UN AND ELSEWHERE IS ESSENTIAL TO WIN CONCESSIONS FROM RICH CONSUMER NATIONS, DESPITE POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED. THERE ARE SIGNS, HOWEVER, THAT IVORY COAST IS INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THESE PROBLEMS AND CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR IMPLICATIONS.

2. ACCOMPANIED BY NEWLY ARRIVED DCM, I CALLED ON USHER JULY 24, GIVING HIM COPY OF SECRETARY'S JULY 14 SPEECH ON UN. SUMMARIZING STATEMENT, I NOTED SECRETARY'S HAVING
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STRESSED GROWING WORLD INTERDEPENDENCE, AND THAT THE UN

RECORD OVER THIRTY YEARS HAD ON BALANCE BEEN VERY POSITIVE. AT A TIME, HOWEVER, WHEN INTERDEPENDENCE CALLED FOR INCREASED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, UNGA BECOMING MORE AND MORE AN ARENA FOR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN IDEOLOGIES AND INTERESTS. I MENTIONED THE "AUTOMATIC MAJORITY" IN UNGA WHICH REPRESENTED NEITHER A MAJORITY OF WORLD POPULATION NOR A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN, AND COULD WEAKEN CONFIDENCE OF MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS. I ALSO POINTED OUT INCONSISTENCY IN THAT "NON-ALIGNED" HAD BECOME MOST SOLID AND INDIVISIBLE BLOC IN UN, DESPITE WIDE IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES AMONG ITS MEMBERS, AND NOTED GROWING CONCERN IN US PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION ABOUT UNREASONABLE AND UNWORKABLE UNGA RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY LARGE NUMERICAL MAJORITIES.

3. USHER REPLIED AT GREAT LENGTH, ALONG LINES WHICH HE HAS FREQUENTLY ADDRESSED IN PAST MONTHS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AMONG NON-ALIGNED, BUT SAID THESE OF MINOR IMPORTANCE COMPARED WITH DIVISION BETWEEN DC'S AND LDC'S. IVORY COAST WAS NOT COMMUNIST AND DID NOT INTEND TO BECOME SO, BUT STRONGEST DEFENCE AGAINST UNWELCOME IDEOLOGIES IN AFRICA WAS NOT ARMS BUT STRENGTHENING OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FABRIC. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WAS USEFUL, BUT FREQUENTLY IN FORM OF LOANS, WHICH MUST EVENTUALLY BE REPAID. IN ANY EVENT AID WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A STOP-GAP. IN LONG RUN LDC'S WHICH ESSENTIALLY PRODUCERS OF RAW MATERIALS, HAD TO RECEIVE A FAIR RETURN FOR THOSE MATERIALS. THE US, WHICH ITSELF A MAJOR PRODUCER, WAS ALSO WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT CONSUMER OF RAW MATERIALS AND HAD MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY IN ENSURING EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR LDC PRODUCERS. UNLESS AND UNTIL LDC'S COULD BE ASSURED STEADY AND INCREASING RETURNS FOR BASIC PRODUCTS, "NON-ALIGNED" BLOC WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN SOLID AND INDIVISIBLE, REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES. ON OCCASION THIS HAD FORCED GOIC INTO DIFFICULT AND UNPALATABLE DECISIONS -- USHER RECALLED THAT PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY HAD BEEN "HEARTBROKEN" WHEN IVORY COAST BROKE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. BUT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WAS FUNDAMENTAL AND ESSENTIAL PROBLEM, WHOSE SOLUTION HAD TO TAKE PRIORITY.

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4. USHER'S ALLUSION TO COFFEE, COCOA, AND OTHER COMMODITY AGREEMENTS WAS OBVIOUS, AND I RECALLED THE SECRETARY'S RECENT SPEECHES, OF WHICH USHER HAD RECEIVED COPIES, DEMONSTRATING AN EVOLVING US ATTITUDE ON THESE ISSUES. I MENTIONED THAT AGRICULTURE MIN SAWADOGO HAD EARLIER SAME DAY SPOKEN TO ME OF EXCELLENT COOPERATION BETWEEN USG AND GOIC DELEGATES AT LONDON COFFEE CONFERENCE, AND THAT COCOA

CONFERENCE WOULD OPEN IN GENEVA NEXT SEPTEMBER. USHER AGREED THAT THESE WERE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS, BUT SUGGESTED THERE WAS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO.

5. COMMENT: USHER'S ARGUMENT IS BY NO MEANS NEW. IN RECENT WEEKS, HOWEVER, WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL INDICATIONS THAT GOIC INCREASINGLY UNCOMFORTABLE IN NON-ALIGNED BLOC. SAWADOGO, WHILE PLEASED WITH COFFEE CONFERENCE, SPOKE WITH REGRET OF FAO BEING USED FOR POLITICAL RATHER THAN TECHNICAL ENDS FOR WHICH IT WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED. USHER'S DIRECTOR OF CABINET NOUAMA TOLD US OF GOIC CONCERN THAT SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION MIGHT DEGENERATE INTO POLITICAL DEBATE, AS HAD SIXTH SS. USHER HIMSELF NOTED THAT GOIC DELEGATE TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE HAD REFUSED TO JOIN WALK-OUT ON MRS. RABIN. NEVERTHELESS, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT GOIC HAS YET DEVELOPED COURAGE TO STAND UP TO OTHER LDC'S IN LARGE FORA SUCH AS UNGA, OR TO TAKE LEAD IN DEVELOPING MORE REASONABLE AND AMENABLE LDC POSITIONS THEREIN. GOIC BY NO MEANS UNSYMPATHETIC TO US VIEWS, HOWEVER, AND WE SHALL NOT NEGLECT OPPORTUNITIES TO REINFORCE THEM. CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARD MORE FORTHCOMING US POSITIONS ON COMMODITIES WILL IN LONG RUN PAY POLITICAL DIVIDENDS FOR US IN IVORY COAST.
SMITH

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